

II. REMARKS

A. Status

Claims 1-25 are pending. Claims 1-3, 5-8, 11-15, and 18-25 are currently active for examination of which claims 1, 15, 20, and 21 are independent.

In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 9-23, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Jones et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,128,402, hereinafter “Jones”). Office Action at 2-3. Claims 4, 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Jones in view of Hirose (U.S. Patent No. 4,554,444, hereinafter “Hirose”). *Id.* at 3-4. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones in view of Guibord et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,430,150, hereinafter “Guibord”). *Id.* at 4-5. Claim 24 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Jones in view of Yukimoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,605,214, hereinafter “Yukimoto”). *Id.* at 5.

In this amendment, claims 1, 11-15, and 20 have been amended to overcome the rejections and claims 4, 9-10, and 16-17 were cancelled. Care has been exercised not to introduce new matter.

B. Claims Are Not Anticipated

Claims 1-3, 9-23, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Jones. Office Action at 2-3. The rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

It should be noted that claims 9-10 and 16-17 have been cancelled and therefore, the rejection of those claims is moot.

1. Independent Claims 1, 15, 20, and 21 Are Not Anticipated by Jones

Claims 1, 15, 20, and 21 have all been amended to overcome the rejection based on anticipation by Jones.

In independent claim 1, for example, the amended language includes, "...said management module comprising banknote source data having transaction information...wherein said management module changes the relationship between said transaction information and said banknote storage, counterfeit collection, and reject boxes when a banknote is conveyed from one box to another...." Amendment at 2.

Jones does not teach that the management module changes the relationship between the transaction information and the various boxes when a banknote is moved to a different box, as recited in claim 1. This process is critical in a pay-out procedure which also tracks transaction information. Jones also does not teach a pay-out of bills. In fact, the Office Action admits as much: "Jones does not disclose a money-out process that feeds banknotes from the banknote storage box." Office Action at 3. Instead, it teaches the logistics of a deposit transaction only. *See, e.g.*, Figs. 1D-1F. Hence, Jones does not teach each and every limitation of claim 1 and cannot anticipate it.

Similarly, independent claim 15 includes the limitation that, "...said control unit updates the source data of the banknote...when the banknote is fed from said banknote storage box." Amendment at 6. Thus, for the same reason that independent claim 1 is not anticipated, neither is independent claim 15.

Independent claims 20 and 21 recite similar limitations as those contained in independent claims 1 and 15, as discussed above. Amendment at 7-8. As such, neither independent claim 20 nor 21 can be anticipated by Jones.

2. Dependent Claims 2-3, 11-14, 16-19, 22-23, and 25 Are Not Anticipated

Of course, a dependent claim cannot be anticipated if the independent claim from which it depends is not anticipated. As discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1,

15, and 21 are not anticipated. Claims 2-3/11-14, 18-19, and 22-25 depend from claims 1, 15, and 21, respectively. Therefore, claims 2-3, 11-14, 18-19, and 22-25 are also not anticipated.

C. Claims Are Not Obvious

1. Claims 4 And 6-8 Are Not Obvious Over Jones In View of Hirose

Claims 4 and 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Jones in view of Hirose. Office Action at 3-4. The rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

First, claim 4 has been cancelled, thus rendering the rejection of that claim moot.

Second, the Office Action states that, “Hirose teaches a banknote feed process that supplies banknotes to the banknote storage box from a place other than the money in-out slot for the purpose of separately depositing notes of several denominations (col. 1, lines 63-67).” Office Action at 4. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Hirose specifically states that, “...banknotes for *withdrawal* ...” are temporarily stored in a plurality of safe sections. Hirose at 62-67 (emphasis added). Thus, the notes stored in the safe sections are for withdrawal, not deposit, as stated in the Office Action.

Hence, neither Jones nor Hirose teaches what is alleged by the Office Action. As such, combining the two cited references can never render claims 6-8 obvious.

2. Claim 5 Is Not Obvious Over Jones In View of Guibord

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Jones in view of Guibord. Office Action at 4. The rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

The Office Action states that, “...it would have been obvious...to modify Jones’s banknote handling system with a left-money collection process that stores or collects a banknote, as taught by Guibord, for the purpose of recovering dispensed cash or notes automatically in

certain conditions when abnormal or erroneous operation has been detected.” Office Action at 4. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The Office Action cites the language of the Guibord reference, but that does not correspond to the language of amended claim 5. Claim 5 now recites that, “a left-money collection process... stores or collect a banknote...into said banknote storage box, said counterfeit collection box, or said reject box.” Amendment at 3.

Hence, neither Jones (as discussed above) or Guibord teaches what is alleged by the Office Action. As such, combining the two cited references can never render claim 5 obvious.

3. Claim 24 Is Not Obvious Over Jones In View of Yukimoto

Claim 24 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Jones in view of Yukimoto. Office Action at 5. The rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Finally, the Office Action states that, “...it would have been obvious...to modify Jones’s banknote handling system to store banknotes sequentially, as taught by Yukimoto, for the purpose of sequentially stacking and accumulating the authentic banknotes.” Office Action at 5.

Again, the Office Action cites the language of the cited reference, not the actual language of the claim. Claim 24 recites that, “...the management module manages the source data...and when a banknote is fed from said banknote storage boxes, said control unit changes the banknote number allocated to the banknote.” Amendment at 9. No mention is made of “sequentially stacking and accumulating” as disclosed by Yukimoto.

Hence, neither Jones (as discussed above) or Yukimoto teaches what the Office Action alleges. As such, combining the two cited references can never render claim 24 obvious.

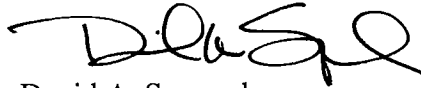
III. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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